

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EAE-00 AS-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1314

INFO CINCPAC

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPACREP PHIL

13AF CLARK AB

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 9449

FOR HOLBROOKE

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, MARR, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS ON US MILITARY BASE ISSUES IN THE
PHILIPPINES

1. DURING LUNCH JUNE 20 WITH THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL,
PRESIDENT MARCOS AGAIN SUGGESTED THAT WE AND THEY SHOULD BEGIN
PROMPTLY TO DISCUSS LESSER ISSUES CONCERNING U.S. MILITARY
BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, ISSUES "THAT CANNOT WAIT" SUCH AS
SMUGGLING, WATERSHED PROTECTION, PERIMETER SECURITY, ETC.
HE SAID WE SHOULD APPROACH THESE ISSUES "PRAGMATICALLY AND
WITHOUT PUBLICITY AS FRIENDS IN A COMMON UNDERTAKING ON THE
TECHNICAL LEVEL WITH AN INFORMAL TASK FORCE. YOU TELL US
WHAT YOU CAN DO, WE'LL TELL YOU WHAT WE INTEND TO DO. THIS
COULD HELP TO MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR YOU AS WELL AS FOR US."

2. FOR EXAMPLE, MARCOS SAID HE WANTS TO CRACK DOWN ON
SMUGGLING, WHICH HE REALIZES COMES NOT ONLY FROM THE BASES
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BUT ALSO THROUGH ZAMBOANGA AND ELSEWHERE. IN THIS REGARD,
WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT HIS CONCERN IS GENERALIZED AND NOT
SPECIFICALLY POINTED AT THE BASES. ON THE OTHER HAND,
HE NOTED, THE FLOW OF NON-DUTY GOODS THROUGH THE BASES IS
A REAL PROBLEM FOR HIM. I SAID IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT
PHILIPPINE RECEIVERS OF DUTY-FREE MERCHANDISE ARE NOT
PROSECUTED BY THE PHILIPPINE AUTHORITIES. HE REPLIED,

"THAT'S EXACTLY THE SORT OF THING WE WANT TO FIND OUT. HOWEVER, THAT INFORMATION HAS NEVER REACHED MY LEVEL. I NEED TO KNOW SUCH THINGS SO THAT I CAN TAKE ACTION."

3. ANOTHER EXAMPLE, MARCOS SAID, IS PROTECTION OF THE WATERSHED OF THE BASES, WHICH IS AN UNDERTAKING INVOLVING CONTROL OF LOGGING AND SLASH-AND-BURN FARMERS OVER LARGER AREAS WITHIN AND ADJACENT TO THE BASES. ON THE NOT UNRELEATED MATTER OF PERIMETER SECURITY, I REFERRED TO THE APPARENT ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE PHILIPPINE LAW TO PROSECUTE TRESPASSERS, AND MARCOS SAID THAT IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE KIND OF ISSUES WE SHOULD ADDRESS TOGETHER.

4. I SAID WE OF COURSE WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION OF OUR BASES WITH RESPECT TO A NUMBER OF SUCH MATTERS, BUT THAT THE QUESTION IS COMPLICATED BY AN UNDERSTANDABLE CONCERN NOT TO PREJUDICE PROSPECTIVE BASE NEGOTIATIONS. MARCOS SEEMED TO SUGGEST THAT FORMAL BASE NEGOTIATIONS PERHAPS WERE NOT ALL THAT IMMINENT OR LIKELY TO BE SWIFTLY CONSUMATED. MEANWHILE THE LESSER MATTERS REMAIN AND SHOULD AND COULD BE ATTENDED TO "QUIETLY WITHOUT AFFECTING THE MAJOR ISSUES," AND "DOING SO WOULD HELP US BOTH," HE CONCLUDED.

5. MARCOS THEN BEGAN TO TICK OFF FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO FOR THE ABSENCE OF FOLLOW THROUGH IN THESE MATTERS, AND I HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT ROMULO HAD MADE SIMILAR SUGGESTIONS TO ME IN A GENERAL VEIN DURING OUR MEETING JUNE 7. MARCOS' REACTION TO THAT WAS, "WELL, LET'S GET CONFIDENTIAL

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GOING AND SET UP THE TASK FORCE. WHO WILL TAKE THE LEAD?" ROMULO SAID UNDERSECRETARY INGLES WOULD BE IN CHARGE. I INTERJECTED THAT I WOULD FIRST WANT TO REPORT THIS DISCUSSION TO THE DEPARTMENT AND COULD NOT AGREE TO ANYTHING AT THIS TIME.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE ME I DID NOT INITIATE OR FUEL THIS DISCUSSION, AND I REMAIN FULLY MINDFUL OF THE DEPARTMENT'S RESERVATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, I AM CONSTRAINED TO POINT OUT THAT IS HAS BEEN FOUR WEEKS SINCE MARCOS FIRST PROPOSED DOING SOMETHING ALONG THESE LINES WITHOUT TO DATE ANY SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE FROM US. THIS UNRESPONSIVENESS IS NOT ONLY EMBARRASSING, BUT I BELIEVE UNTENABLE AND POTENTIALLY DAMAGING TO OUR IMPROVING RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE GOP. PLEASE ADVISE.
STULL

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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